

# SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

## Don't wait for an emergency to prepare.

### MAKE A PLAN

#### Family Emergency Plan

Take the time to make a family plan before an emergency occurs.

- Find out what kinds of natural and man-made disasters, both natural and man-made, are most likely to occur in your area and how you will be notified of an emergency.
- Identify emergency contacts (local and out of town contact) and phone numbers.
- Plan for the possibilities of either staying in place or evacuating.
- Review the plan with all family members.

### GET A KIT

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, remember the basics of survival: fresh water, food, and clean air. Provisions for at least 72 hours should be in your kit including:

- Water: One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days;
- Food: At a minimum three days of non-perishable foods (remember a manual can opener);
- Medicines, first aid supplies, and personal sanitation items: include prescriptions, moist towelettes, and garbage bags;
- Ability to keep informed and communicate: Include a list of your [utility company contact numbers](#), a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, cell phone with chargers, and a whistle to signal for help;
- Flashlights and basic tools (wrenches, pliers, and extra batteries); and
- Local maps, cash or traveler's checks and change.

### BE INFORMED

#### Individuals and Families

- Learn what kinds of emergencies might affect your area and about emergency plans and procedures established by your [local emergency management offices](#). If you live or work in Mesa, you can visit Mesa's [website](#), tune to Channel 11 or local radio/television stations for information during a disaster;
- Learn about emergency procedures at schools, workplaces and other places your family members may be when an emergency occurs.

After preparing for possible emergencies by getting a kit, making a plan and being informed, take the next step... **get involved**. [Citizen Corps](#) actively involves citizens in making communities stronger and better prepared.

## ENERGY SAFETY DURING AND AFTER EMERGENCIES

Energy and other utilities may be damaged during emergencies and outages may occur. As part of emergency planning, it is important to learn how to detect an energy emergency and how to respond. Remember, regardless of your emergency plan; always follow the directions of on-site emergency officials.

Energy emergencies that would require you to go to a safe location and report the incident to the City of Mesa's Energy Resources Department, SRP and/or 911 include:

You smell natural gas (a rotten egg smell) or hear a hissing sound coming from appliances or meters. Leave the area immediately and call the City of Mesa gas emergency hotline at 480-644-4277 (GASS) or call 911.

- You see a nearby transformer sparking or smoking. If there is a safe exit, leave the building immediately and call the City of Mesa electric emergency hotline at 480-644-2266/SRP electric emergency hotline at 602-236-8811 OR call 911.
- You see a downed power line. Always assume it is energized and dangerous. STAY CLEAR OF THE AREA and call the City of Mesa electric emergency hotline at 480-644-2266/SRP electric emergency hotline at 602-236-8811 OR call 911.
- Your electrical outlets begin to spark or smoke, or your interior walls become hot to the touch. Leave immediately, go to a safe location and call 911.

When you return following an emergency, do not go inside a building until it has been cleared to do so by emergency officials. For more information on energy safety, visit [www.mesaaz.gov/energy](http://www.mesaaz.gov/energy).

Mesa's Emergency Management Office has a printable [Family Preparedness Guide](#). Print a copy, review it with your family, and keep it as a reference and reminder about the importance of being prepared.